

Just one  
winner  
[PREFERABLY  
THE POOLS]  
please...



POWERFUL... PENETRATING... PERTINENT

GALE on Friday

COLUMNIST OF THE YEAR

# Let's never take peace for granted



Brittan... an idea

A criminal  
waste of  
taxpayers'  
money...



The Reagans pay tribute  
to the fallen near  
Omaha Beach this week

## Decent

Had I been an early winner, I might well have become a gambler and therefore a loser. By being so constant a loser, I became a long-time winner. The losers are surely those whose appetite is whetted by wins?

Still and all, I'd like to win once. No more. Just one decent win, and I'd pack it in entirely. Preferably the pools. But I'd settle for a certainty at 50 to one!

**H**AD there been no D-Day landings, had there been no Second Front, Europe would have remained under Nazi rule or would have fallen under Soviet rule.

Hitler's tyranny, or Stalin's would have triumphed — and either way Europe's freedom, and ours, would have perished.

We owe an immeasurable debt to the young men who invaded and liberated Europe 40 years ago. The battles were as bloody as those of the First World War, if not so pointless and prolonged.

The slaughter was not as disgusting in Normandy in 1944 as it had been in Flanders in 1914-18, but it was terrible, nonetheless, and all in all, the Second World War was no less barbaric than the First.

It is our very good fortune that we have not suffered a Third World War.

Had Hitler held Europe, or had Stalin, unaided, defeated him, the United States and ourselves would have had to fight a third war to destroy, or be destroyed by, either the German or the Russian hegemony. The defeat of Germany in the West, which followed the 1944 invasion, prevented such a war.

## Great virtue

Since 1945 the peace and freedom of the West have been preserved only by constant vigilance, and political and military endeavour.

Peace does not come about by accident; it has to be worked at and striven for. The peace we have enjoyed for 40 years has been produced by our politicians and our arms.

Peace is a very great virtue, and it has been the bi-partisan but essentially conservative politics of the rulers — of Britain and the United States, of France and of Germany, which has preserved and sustained it, and NATO and the Bomb which have ensured it.

Those who now would have us give up our nuclear arms, evict the Americans from our shores, abandon the protection of the American nuclear shield, encourage the United States to turn its back upon the Atlantic and face out across the Pacific, and disperse with NATO, and who instead would put their trust in the peacemongers of the Kremlin, would also repudiate the sacrifice of those who died on the beaches in 1944.

## Tyranny

They may deny this; but it will be true.

We successfully defeated the Nazi tyranny in 1944-45. For 40 years since then, we and our rulers have successfully resisted falling under the tyranny of the Soviet bloc. And for 40 years, we and our rulers have kept the peace of Europe, and have avoided a Third World War.

The achievement of 1944 was huge. That we today are free to acknowledge our debt is thanks to the men who liberated Europe, and to all those who since then have preserved the freedom, the security and the coherence of the West.



Zola: Just wants to run

# Shame on Mr Pitt for his spiteful, ugly threat to Zola

**ZOLA BUDD** says she wishes the politicians would just let her get on with her running.

Yes, but she ought to recall that if it hadn't been for politicians and officials easing her way to British citizenship, she wouldn't be running here at all.

This said, what a wretched man Peter Pitt, chairman of the GLC's arts and recreation committee, has shown himself to be. Pitt threatened to cut off GLC funds to the Crystal Palace Sports Centre unless Zola denounced apartheid.

The threat was no less nasty for being idle. This year's funding for Crystal Palace is already secure.

There was thus no clout behind Pitt's threat. But what an ugly and hateful, spiteful and envious, twisted and warped, cruel and ignorant and mean threat it was!

It is good that Zola looks as if she will be running for Britain. It is appalling that Peter Pitt can claim he is speaking for London.

That a threat like Pitt's can be made by an elected representative of the capital's citizens is a matter of shame and disgust. He besmirches his Party, his council and his city as well as himself.

# Weathering the holiday as usual

**THE** cheerfulness of the British when faced with weather such as we have been having since Easter never fails to impress.

People who holiday in Britain (as I prefer to do) are forever apologising on behalf of the climate they

have endured, as this conversation, overheard in a bar proves.

"Where've you been?"

"The East Coast."

"It's always cold up here."

"Oo no. It's all right if the weather's all right."

# VATMAN STRIKES AGAIN...

**DENNIS BELL**, a self-employed plumber, employing one or two men, writes to me from Sandbach Cheshire, saying he is cheesed off.

"The VATman has visited me twice in two years, treating me like a criminal on the assumption I am abusing VAT payments. I act as an unpaid tax and VAT collector for the Government. I spend many hours per week on this for nothing."

Like me, he is not surprised that the black economy is booming. It will continue to do so as long as people are convinced that

their tax burden is too heavy and that coping with VAT and income tax is too grievous a chore.

"I recently called at the Job Centre to see if they had a plumber on their books," Mr Bell writes.

"I was given one name and address, of a plumber drawing dole. I called at his house and asked him to work for me at the full trade rate. As he was drawing dole and working unofficially, he was not interested. No way can I compete against his prices."

I draw the attention of Chancellor Nigel Lawson to Mr Bell's letter.

Mel Bush & John Reid Present

**elton  
john**

JUNE

18th, 19th LEEDS - QUEENS HALL 0532-431961  
20th, 21st EDINBURGH - PLAYHOUSE 031-557-2590  
23rd, 24th N.E.C. BIRMINGHAM 021-780-2518

IVECO THE OFFICIAL TRANSPORTER

DON'T MISS GEORGE GALE EVERY FRIDAY